

REMARKS

The present amendment is intended to clearly place the case in condition for allowance. More specifically, the only claims that remain pending after this response are those that have been allowed or indicated as allowable and new claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 15–20, 45–54, 57, 59, 61–85, and 89–120 are pending after this action.

Claims 15–20, 45–54, 86–88, and 101 stand rejected. Claims 57 and 102 stand objected to. Claims 59, 61–85, 89–100, and 103–120 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges allowance of claims 59, 61–85, 89–100, and 103–120 and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims of this application.

The Office Action asserts that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on March 10, 2005, fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited non-patent literature publication. In a telephone conversation with Examiner Bottorff on May 10, 2005, it was discovered that the non-patent publications sent with the IDS were not present when the IDS was provided to Examiner Bottorff. The remainder of the references in the IDS were considered.

The return receipt postcard from the IDS submittal, a copy of which is attached, indicates receipt of the cited references by the Patent Office. Applicants provide additional color copies of the non-patent publications from the March 10, 2005, IDS in an Appendix to this response and respectfully request consideration of these references.

The Office Action on page 9 states that claims 57 and 102 would be allowable, as previously indicated, if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants have amended claim 15, from which these claims depend, which adds the antecedent basis that is the basis of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action identifies that the limitation of canceled claim 56 that was indicated as allowable in the Office Action of August 10, 2004, was not added to independent claim 15. Claim 15 and claims dependent therefrom remain rejected. Applicants apologize for this unintentional oversight and have added the allowable limitation of canceled claim 56 into claim 15. It is believed that this amendment places claim 15 and claims dependent from claim 15 in

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condition for allowance. This amendment also removes the basis of the antecedent-related rejection of claims 57 and 102, which was due to that oversight.

The Office Action identifies that the Office Action mailed August 10, 2004, included a rejection of claim 83 as it depended from claim 76. Therefore, the presentation of the limitations of claim 83, as it depends from claim 76, in new claim 86 does not place new claim 86 in condition for allowance. Applicants have canceled claim 86 and dependent claims 87 and 88.

If the present amendment does not place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to immediately contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss the possibility of an Examiner's Amendment to immediately place the case in condition for allowance.

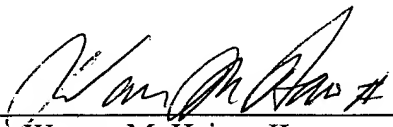
Conclusion

Claims 15-20, 45-54, 57, 59, 61-85, and 89-120 are currently pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 59, 61-85, 89-100, and 103-120. In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is submitted that claims 15-20, 45-54, 57, 101, and 102 are also in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance of all pending claims—15-20, 45-54, 57, 59, 61-85, and 89-120—is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no further fee is required relating to the filing of this Response. If this is not the case, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to Deposit Account No. 03-0172. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/12/05

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condition for allowance. This amendment also removes the basis of the antecedent-related rejection of claims 57 and 102, which was due to that oversight.

The Office Action identifies that the Office Action mailed August 10, 2004, included a rejection of claim 83 as it depended from claim 76. Therefore, the presentation of the limitations of claim 83, as it depends from claim 76, in new claim 86 does not place new claim 86 in condition for allowance. Applicants have canceled claim 86 and dependent claims 87 and 88.

If the present amendment does not place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to immediately contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss the possibility of an Examiner's Amendment to immediately place the case in condition for allowance.

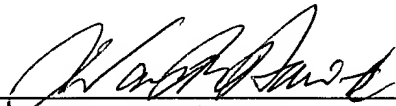
Conclusion

Claims 15-20, 45-54, 57, 59, 61-85, and 89-120 are currently pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 59, 61-85, 89-100, and 103-120. In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is submitted that claims 15-20, 45-54, 57, 101, and 102 are also in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance of all pending claims—15-20, 45-54, 57, 59, 61-85, and 89-120—is respectfully requested.

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APPENDIX